



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

— Dr. Chavanne has published a hypsometrical map of Africa, and has calculated, from 8000 hypsometrical measurements, the average height of the whole continent, which he finds to be no less than 661.8 metres (with a probable error of \pm metres). This very high figure obviously, says *Nature*, is the result of the very great extension of high plateaux, which we do not find to such an extent even in Asia.

— The glacier of Zerafshan, which is sixteen miles long, has been explored throughout its whole length; it has thirteen secondary glaciers. The Ala-taon mountains, in Asia, are also covered with mighty glaciers; these mountains are from 10,000 to 16,000 feet high.

— Texas is to have a State university. The governor has called the regents to meet at Austin to make a permanent organization preparatory to the establishment of the university.

— Dr. Gustaf Linnarson, the well-known palæontologist of the Swedish Geological Survey, died in September last at the age of 40 years.

—:0:—

PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.—Titles of papers read at Philadelphia meeting, commencing November 15, 1881:

On a gigantic Salpa found in the Gulf Stream. By Professor A. Agassiz.
The Echini of the Challenger Expedition. By Professor A. Agassiz.
The Classification of the Dinosauria. By Professor O. C. Marsh.
Succession in time of the Allotheria. By Professor O. C. Marsh.
Distribution of the Corals of Tortugas. Professor A. Agassiz.
The Porpitidæ and Velellidæ of the Gulf Stream. By Professor A. Agassiz.
Complex Organic Acids. By Professor W. Gibbs.
The theory of Dynamo-Electric Machines. By Professor W. Gibbs.
The Phenacolontidæ, a new group of Perissodactyla. By Professor E. D. Cope.

Second day, Nov. 16:

A comparison between the shells of the Kjöckkmödings of the coast of New England and the present shells of the same species. By Professor E. S. Morse.
The expedition to Mount Whitney, with observations on solar energy. By Professor S. B. Langley.
A peculiar vein containing gold and silver found in the Sierra Negretta or Black range. By Professor B. Silliman.
On the Life and Labors of Professor S. S. Haldemann. By Professor J. P. Lesley.
Logic of Numbers. By Professor Charles Pierce.
Chinoline Synthesis for Medical Uses. By Professor Henry Morton.
Hydrometer Scales. By Professor C. F. Chandler.
The Velocity of Light. By Professor Simon Newcomb.

Third day, Nov. 18:

Sorghum and some conclusions as to its value as a source of sugar. Read by invitation by Peter Collier.
Maschart's Electrometer and its use as a meteorological instrument. By Professor Geo. F. Barker.
The Fossil and recent Faunæ of the Oregon and Idaho deserts in relation to the antiquity of man. By Professor E. D. Cope.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, March 18, 1881.—A memoir On the Preglacial drainage of Lake Erie and other great lakes, by Dr. J. W. Spencer, was read and illustrated by the secretary. A paper on a geological section at St. Marys, in Elk county, Pa., was read by Mr. Ashburner.

April 1.—Prof. W. M. Fontaine offered for publication in the Transactions of the Society, a memoir on the Rhætic flora and the formation to which they belong, in Virginia and North Carolina. Mr. Mansfield, of Connelton, Beaver county, Pa., communicated by letter a drawing, life size, of a fine fossil, *Eurypterus*, found by him in the shale immediately beneath the Darlington canal beds, lower productive coal measures. Mr. E. B. Harden presented two models in plaster, one geologically colored, the other uncolored, of a large portion of Blair county, Pa., on a scale of 8000' 1'', vertical scale exaggerated two and a-half times. Captain E. Y. McCauley, U.S.N., communicated for publication in the Proceedings, An alphabet and syllabary of the Egyptian language for the use of students.

April 15.—A drawing and a description of his improved "Centigrad Photometer," was received from D. Cogliervina of Vienna. Professor P. E. Chase explained certain relations of the spectrum line F with other lines and data, suggesting the probable identity of hydrogen and the luminiferous æther. Professor E. D. Cope read a paper on the classification of the Perissodactyla. Dr. König made remarks on Dr. P. F. Reinsch's plates of the microscopic lithology of the Anthracite and other coals. Mr. Lesley communicated an appendix to Dr. Spencer's paper on the Lake Erie former water-basin, suggesting the probable course of the upper Ohio from Pittsburgh to Butler, thence via New Castle, up the present Mahoning valley, and down the grand valley of the Ohio to Lake Erie.

May 6.—Mr. Frazer exhibited coins, also specimens of granite, cement, lead, bronze and steel, used by the Egyptians in erecting the obelisk, now in New York, and sections of the granite under the microscope. Mr. Ashburner exhibited a suite of maps of one of the British coal fields. Dr. Chance communicated a paper, entitled "An analysis of the fire damp explosions in the Anthracite coal mines from 1876 to 1880."

June 17.—Communications were made as follows, viz.: 1. Note on the Geology of West Virginia, by J. C. White. 2. A Series of Standard Units, by Pliny E. Chase. 3. On Alaska, by Prof. George A. König.

July 15.—The following communications were read: 1. On the Argilliferous Gravels of North Carolina, by H. M. Chance, M. D. 2. The Brain of the Cat, *Felis domesticus*, with four plates, by Burt G. Wilder, Prof. Anatomy in Cornell University. 3. The Vagus Nerve of the Cat, with four plates, by T. B. Stowell.

September 17.—Professor Cope communicated a paper, entitled “On Some Mammalia of the Lowest Eocene of New Mexico.”

October 7.—Professor J. J. Stevenson communicated through the Secretary as follows: “Notes on the Coal-field near Cañon City, Colorado. Notes on the Quinnimont coal group in Mercer Co., W. Va., and Tazewell Co., Va. By John J. Stevenson, Professor of Geology in the University of the City of New York. Professor Cope exhibited a very perfect lower jaw of a marsupialoid type with carnivorous characters from New Mexico. On splitting the jaw he found beneath a genuine and perfect marsupial fourth premolar, a concealed perfect successional tooth of carnivorous type. In front of it was another and smaller concealed successional tooth of the same type. He named the animal *Triisodon quivirensis*. Professor Cope exhibited, also, a tooth of an animal from the Lower Eocene of New Mexico, the importance of which lay in the fact that proved the continued existence of the Jurassic (Purbeck) *Plagiaulax* type through the Cretaceous to Tertiary times. He names the Lower Eocene form *Ptilodus mediævus*.

October 21.—Professor Haupt exhibited specimens of natural terra cotta produced by spontaneous combustion in the lignite of the Badlands, and used for ballasting the Northern Pacific R. R. Mr. Lesley exhibited a recent completed map of the Bald Eagle mountain and Birmingham hills in Blair and Huntingdon counties, Pa., drawn by E. B. & O. B. Harden, for the purpose of explaining the difficult structure of the Sinking Valley faulted anticlinal, &c. Mr. Lesley read “Notes on a possible Adite element in the early history of Egypt.”

MIDDLESEX INSTITUTE, Mass., Sept. 7.—A free public exhibition of native autumn flowers was given. Among the novelties shown was *Solidago bicolor*, var. *concolor* from Malden, collected by Henry L. Moody, who was also fortunate enough to find, just over the county line and in Essex county, *Pedicularis lanceolata* Michx., a most interesting discovery for this region. Mr. Frohock exhibited *Echium vulgare* from Summerville. The collection of Asters and golden rods was particularly fine, considering the unfortunately hot weather prevailing at the time, and the whole exhibition creditable to the Institute and to the ladies who contributed so much towards its success.

Sept. 14.—Mr. Davenport read a paper on “Some Internal Visual Phenomena,” which was followed by a most interesting discussion in which Messrs. Moody, Gleason, Dame, Frohock, Collins and others participated.

BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY, October 19.—Prof. A. Hyatt discussed the formation through disease of movable joints in lobster claws; Mr. N. F. Merrill read a paper on the Lithological Collection of the Survey of the Fortieth Parallel, and Dr. M. E. Wadsworth gave some items relating to the Geology of Eastern Massachusetts.

November 2.—Mr. W. O. Crosby discussed the Classification of the textures and structures of rocks; Dr. M. E. Wadsworth spoke of the Trachyte of Marblehead Neck; and Mr. William Trelease described the Nectar-glands in the peduncle of the Cow-pea.

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB, October 12.—Mr. W. H. Pickering spoke of a trip made this summer over Passaconaway and Whiteface, and Prof. C. E. Fay spoke of the discovery of a natural camp in King's Ravine. Other informal reports of summer excursions were made, and on the 15th, the Club made an autumn excursion, visiting the Uncanoonucs, near Manchester, N. H.

Nov. 9.—The Councillors presented their reports of work done during the summer. Mr. F. W. Parker spoke of a recent trip through the region north of Moosehead lake, and Mrs. R. A. Bradford read a paper entitled, "A sketch of the ascents of Bald and Berlin mountains."

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, October 17.—The following papers were read: Geological facts recently observed in Idaho, Utah, Nevada and Colorado, by J. S. Newberry. Outlines of the geology of the Northeastern West India islands, by Professor P. T. Cleve (of Sweden).

Oct. 24.—Notes on the physiology of vision, with modifications in the ordinary theory of the stereoscope, were read by Mr. W. Le Conte Stevens.

Oct. 31.—The following paper was read: The Geology of the Copper region of Northern Texas and the Indian Territory, by John H. Furman.

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, Nov. 4.—Hon. B. B. Redding, president of the board of trustees, announced the very generous and welcome donation of \$20,000 to the Academy by Charles Crocker. Charles Wolcott Brooks, secretary of the board, then read the following letter of presentation, and the acknowledgment forwarded to Mr. Crocker by the trustees:

SAN FRANCISCO, NOVEMBER 1, 1881.

To the Trustees of the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, Cal.—Gentlemen: Desiring to make an acknowledgment of my appreciation of the benefits conferred upon society through the labors of students and investigators in those branches of science that are popularly supposed not to be practically profitable, I herewith send you \$20,000 in Southern Pacific Railroad bonds.

The income from said fund of \$20,000 I desire you shall annually expend in assisting in their investigations in California, Oregon, Nevada and Arizona, such worthy and studious investigators, in any branch of science, as have, by their devotion to scientific investigations and experiments, largely and necessarily excluded

themselves from acquiring support through the ordinary avocations of current industrial life. Very respectfully,

CHARLES CROCKER.

TORONTO NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY, Nov. 7.—Henry Montgomery, the president, gave a lengthy address upon "The Relations of the Blastoidea," copiously illustrated by specimens of existing and extinct sea-urchins of various genera, star-fishes, brittle-stars, crinoids, trepangs and Blastoidea of the genera *Pentremites* and *Nucleocrinus*. Of the last-named genus the lecturer exhibited the specimen recently described by him in his paper on "A Blastoid found in the Devonian rocks of Ontario." Mr. William Brodie then showed specimens of fiber from the upper sheaths of the "broom" grass, *Adropogon scoparius*, well adapted for the manufacture of cordage and paper. In his address Mr. Brodie claimed that this grass can be utilized to reclaim dry, sandy, waste land. The samples shown were remarkably tenacious.

—:O:—

SELECTED ARTICLES IN SCIENTIFIC SERIALS.

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF SCIENCE, November.—Jurassic birds and their allies, by O. C. Marsh. Local subsidence produced by an ice-sheet, by J. W. McGee. Note on the Laramie group of Southern New Mexico, by J. J. Stevenson. The nature of Cyathophycus, by C. D. Walcott.

THE GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE, October.—On some points in the morphology of the Rhabdophora, by J. Hopkinson. The glaciation of the Shetlands, by D. M. Home. Differences between the London and Berlin Archæopteryx, by H. G. Seeley.

—:O:—

THE SIXTEENTH VOLUME OF THE AMERICAN NATURALIST.—Although no promises of enlargement were made to our subscribers at the beginning of the year, we beg to call attention to the fact that Vol. xv contains 1042 pages, or 116 pages more than the preceding volume. The number and variety of illustrations is also greater than in the last volume.

We can assure our readers that from the papers now in hand and those promised, Vol. xvi will certainly not be inferior in variety and interest to any of its predecessors. There is considerable probability that a department of mineralogy will be shortly added.

We would respectfully invite the contributions of original notes and articles, and items of scientific news, and would ask our friends to call the attention of those in any way interested in natural history to our magazine, as an aid and stimulus in their studies and field work. We want to so enlarge our subscription list, that we can offer more illustrations to our patrons.

We would respectfully ask our exchanges to specially notice the December NATURALIST, and to send marked copies containing such notices to the editors.